
Governor Schwarzenegger's Five-Point Plan To End California's Critical Nursing Shortage

Nursing is a rewarding and lucrative profession, which is vital to the quality of California's health care system and to California's economy.

THE PROBLEM: California's major challenge is to expand California's educational capacity so more people can become nurses.

1. Each year, California's demand for nurses far exceeds the number of nurses graduated, so that by 2010 47,600 additional nurses will be needed and by 2020 an additional 116,000 nurses will be needed.
2. California currently graduates nearly 6,000 nurses per year and will need to graduate at least 9,000 more each year to meet the demand.
3. In 2003, only 44% of students applying to nursing programs could be admitted in Bay Area schools and only 42% in the LA area. Of the 297,000 registered nurses in California, 45% are trained out of state.

THE SOLUTION: Solving the nursing shortage will take a multi-faceted approach.

1. Help public colleges and universities expand their educational capacity.

\$90 Million for 5-Year Plan with California Community Colleges

- Public colleges and universities lose money on nursing programs, a problem compounded by high dropout rates. Many made financial decisions to close or limit nursing schools.
- We are developing creative solutions to allow community colleges and universities to expand their educational capacity and retain students.

2. Partner with private industry to create more educational opportunities.

\$2.5 Million for Regional Simulation Laboratories

- Private industry can be ingenious in filling a need. We'll encourage private schools and health facilities to partner and develop more nursing educational programs.
- We'll create additional public-private partnerships to expand nursing programs, particularly within the UC and CSU systems.

3. Recruit nurses to teach in nursing programs.

\$2.5 Million for Educational Loan Forgiveness

- Current laws limiting the nursing faculty teaching within the higher educational system must be changed.
- We'll design creative solutions to attract nursing faculty.

4. Develop new avenues to nursing careers.

\$5 Million for Nursing Pre-Apprenticeship for Underserved Populations

- People already in the health care industry need opportunities to move into nursing.
- Expand the nursing apprenticeship programs and academies to open new opportunities to nursing careers.

5. Partner with the federal government and other funding sources for broader spending authority.

CA Secretary of Labor Victoria Bradshaw to meet with US Department of Labor in May 2005

- Prior efforts fell short of their goals because of federally mandated limitations on money already awarded to healthcare programs.
- We will seek waivers and new funding sources for greater flexibility to increase capacity.

THE TASKFORCE: The Governor will issue an Executive Order creating an ongoing taskforce to oversee implementation of the Five Point Plan. The Taskforce will consist of a Chair, as well as the Secretaries the following agencies: Health and Human Services; Labor and Workforce Development; State and Consumer Services; and the Secretary of Education. In addition, the California State University system, and the California Community Colleges and the University of California are being asked to sit as members of the taskforce.
